

Primary School Overview

What Makes Prairie's Primary School So Special?

Small Class Sizes:

The average Primary School classroom serves 15 students at a time, with a 6:1 student-teacher ratio. A full-time teacher and teacher's assistant can be found in every room, allowing our skilled faculty to pay close attention to each child's individual needs, maximizing their time together and tailoring the curriculum to address key areas.

Hands-On Learning:

Our youngest students enjoy interactive learning at every age, from robotics projects beginning in Kindergarten to planting and harvesting vegetables in Prairie's Giving Garden. We believe children learn by doing, and regularly put this theory into practice.

Top-Notch Tools:

Prairie strives to bring the best educational practices to our learning community. Our Primary School students participate in physical education every day, fine or performing arts every day, and have regular access to computers, iPads, and world language instruction. After significant research and deliberation, the Primary School grades also implemented new handwriting, keyboarding and reading/writing curricula in the fall of 2015.

Passionate Master Teachers:

Thanks in large part to our small class sizes, our experienced, dynamic educators are able to pay close attention to each student's social, emotional and physical well-being, thereby laying the best possible foundation for academic success. Additionally, Prairie's dedication to professional development is evident in every classroom. By making significant, ongoing investments in our faculty's learning and growth, we enable them to reach their full potential — which in turn benefits our students and families.

Family Partnerships:

The constant exchange of information between teachers and parents is one of the best ways to ensure student success in higher education. Our faculty have an open-door policy for all parents and prioritize the creation of a nurturing, welcoming academic community. It's common to see parents in our hallways interacting with their children, as well as faculty and staff. Regular Dinner & Dialogue sessions in the Primary School also provide the opportunity for teachers and parents to connect outside of the busy school day.



Enriching Extras:

Social and emotional learning is just as important as academic excellence. To this end, Prairie's Buddy Program — a deliberate, meaningful pairing of every Primary School student with a child in the Middle or Upper School — helps foster mentoring relationships across ages and grades. At Stay & Play, students have the opportunity for free choice play, recreation, arts and crafts, games and homework assistance before and after school (7:15 a.m. - 8:15 a.m. and 3:45 - 6:00 p.m.). Co-Curricular and Extracurricular Activities give children the opportunity to further explore areas of special interest. These include Chess Club, Math Problem Solvers, Stream & Water Testing, Student Council, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, Primary School Choir, private music lessons, working in the Giving Garden, Poet Kids (in conjunction with Carthage College), tennis, and Battle of the Books (4th grade).

The Compass Team

Every individual learns differently, and the mission of Prairie's multi-disciplinary Compass Program is to maximize the potential of each child regardless of his or her educational style and academic ability. We collaborate with teachers, students, parents, and one another to best support the diverse, school-related needs of all Prairie students. Whatever skills your child brings to Prairie, Compass is the guide that will ensure future success. The Compass Team is comprised of:

Learning Specialists, who work with teachers and families to holistically identify student strengths and challenges, encourage self-advocacy, and support learning and study strategies to ensure academic success.

Prairie's **School Counselor**, who supports emotionally secure relationships that positively impact academic and social success for each student.

A team of **Academic Support Teachers**, including Reading Specialists (providing support for the Wilson Reading Program), an ELL (English Language Learner) Teacher, a Math Specialist, and a Speech and Language Therapist.

Full-Time Registered Nurses, who provide medical care, health assessments and wellness counseling for the entire school community.



Questions?

Contact Kathy Boero, Head of Primary School & Compass Team Director, at kboero@prairieschool.com or 262.752.2575.



THE PRAIRIE SCHOOL

Please call or email the
Admission Office to
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Prairie School



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